

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 1, 2025

TO: Honorable Ken King, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1805 by Oliverson (Relating to the creation of the Religious Freedom Commission.), As Introduced

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB1805, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$748,321) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to <i>General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2026	(\$378,508)
2027	(\$369,813)
2028	(\$378,508)
2029	(\$369,813)
2030	(\$378,508)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 1	<i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2025</i>
2026	(\$378,508)	2.5
2027	(\$369,813)	2.5
2028	(\$378,508)	2.5
2029	(\$369,813)	2.5
2030	(\$378,508)	2.5

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend the Government Code to establish the Religious Freedom Commission (Commission) within the Office of the Governor (OOG). The Commission would be comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor according to certain qualifications. A member of the Commission would be entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.

The Commission would be tasked with promoting religious freedom, identifying challenges and solutions related to religious liberty, and serving as an advisor to the Governor on religious freedom issues including making recommendations regarding local and state policies that violate or fail to ensure an individual's right to

religious belief and practice. The OOG would provide administrative support to the Commission.

Methodology

It is anticipated the OOG would need an additional 2.5 FTEs: 0.5 General Counsel III, 0.5 Financial Analyst III, 0.5 Information Specialist III, and 1 Program Specialist IV. The total estimate for FTE-related costs, including travel and various other operating costs, is anticipated to be \$748,321 for the 2026-27 biennium.

Technology

No technology impact is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 300 Trusteed Programs Within the Office of the Governor, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, WP, LCO, KCu, NV